

THE GREAT BATTLE LINES IN THE WEST



The first general engagement in the West, sometimes known as the battle of Mons-Charleroi, started August 23 and resulted in the defeat of the French and British. They retreated south of the Marne, where the second general engagement started September 5. The line of this date on the map shows the armies' positions just before the battle. The German right wing was broken up and forced back, bringing about a retirement of the whole line. The German positions on September 9, in the midst of their retreat, are shown on the map by a series of light rectangles, while a row of darkened rectangles indicates the carefully prepared trench line of the Aisne where they stopped and were attacked by the allies September 13. Both sides now extended their lines toward the coast. Light squares show the approximate position assumed September 30. By October 15 the siege line was complete from the Alps to the sea. The line of September 30 also shows the Germans' great drive into the French line across the Meuse at St. Mihiel. Crossed swords mark the spots of the entrenched siege line where the greatest struggles have taken place since October 15.

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR IN THE WEST

The first month and a half of the western campaign was made up of startling, swift moves. On September 12, after the defeat on the Marne, the Germans took up defensive positions along the Aisne river. The ten and a half months since then have seen a long deadlock.

The battle line of the Aisne and the Oise quickly extended northeast to the sea. Fighting has been continuous, with tremendous losses. The general situation has remained unchanged, gains of a few miles for one side at one point offset by minor gains for the enemy in other sectors.

At the beginning of August the Kaiser took possession of the little state of Luxembourg and demanded passage through Belgium to the Franco-Belgian frontier.

Permission to pass denied, Von Einem attacked Liege (August 4), while other German armies passed around the city and swept over the level Belgian roads at a terrific rate. The little Belgian army yielded Brussels and fell back to Antwerp and Ghent.

First Big Engagement. Not until the Germans had almost reached the French border did the first important engagement take place. This is generally known as the battle of Mons-Charleroi (about August 20-25), but at the same time there was severe fighting along the whole line through Thionville in Lorraine and along the Vosges in upper Alsace, which the French had invaded with temporary success.

This battle resulted in defeat for the French and English.

While obtaining some successes in counter-attacks on the advancing Germans at Peronne and at Guise, the French were obliged to fall back rapidly to the line of the River Marne.

On the left the French had withdrawn to below Paris and the westernmost German army, under Von Kluck, followed.

The garrison of Paris was put in thousands of motor cars and hurried on Von Kluck's flank. The latter was not taken entirely unawares and met the attack strongly, but at the same time the army of General Foch attacked the German army on Von Kluck's left and drove it back.

Driven Back From Paris.

The Germans had begun the battle with five armies in line. The withdrawal of the two farthest west now caused the retreat of the third, fourth and fifth in that order, each in turn finding its flank exposed by the withdrawal of the troops on its right. At the same time the movement on the east end of the German line was accelerated by a strong attack from the French fortified zone of Verdun.

The German retreat was as orderly as that of the French and English had been. The invaders took up an admirable defensive position. It ran just north of the Aisne river, on a series of bluffs, then just north of Chalons and through the wooded, rough regions of the Argonne and the Woivre, joining hands here with the troops besieging Verdun. The allies have tried this line in vain ever since.

Both combatants now tried to turn the west flank. Enormous bodies of cavalry. On the part of the French Flanders. On the part of the French there was largely the desire to link up with the Belgians, now being attacked in Antwerp. The mighty siege guns of the Germans made short work of the Belgian seaport, however, and it fell on October 9. The remnants of the Belgian army retreated along the sea coast and the Germans in a final rush reached Ostend (October 15).

Line Extended to the Sea.

The battle line of the Aisne was now extended to the sea, the Germans holding the important French city of Lille, while the allies kept Ypres in Belgium and, partly by flooding the lowlands, held the position of the Yser river and canal.

From October 16 to November 10 was fought the desperate first battle

of Ypres, when the Germans suffered enormous losses in attempts to break through the line in Flanders and reach Calais. They succeeded in pushing back the allies only a little and the invasion of Silesia by the Cossacks finally induced them to desist and send re-enforcements to Russia.

The Germans in September had performed the feat of pushing a salient into the French line south of Verdun, which terminated on the west bank of the Meuse river at St. Mihiel; while the French had taken the offensive with some success in Champagne at about the same time.

For the most part throughout the winter the fighting consisted of regular siege warfare, with heavy artillery combats and mine and counter-mine.

The flooding of the River Aisne from winter snows gave the Germans a chance to entrap the French troops on the north side of that river in the vicinity of Soissons for a considerable distance and kill or capture most of them (January 14).

Take Offensive in Spring.

With the spring, the French and English attempted to take the offensive at several points. Always preparing the way with tens or hundreds of thousands of shells, they tried joint after joint of the German armor.

In the Vosges the dominating height of Hartmannswillerkopf was taken and retaken several times in sanguinary charges and finally remained in the hands of the French.

The salient of St. Mihiel was also subjected to tremendous French pressure on both "legs." The French succeeded in gaining a little ground, but the Germans, despite the apparent weakness of the sharp wedge they had driven into the French line, could not be dislodged and later succeeded in regaining some of the territory they had lost.

The British also reported "victories" at Neuve Chapelle and Hill No. 60, in Flanders. Whether these should be accounted successes for the allies is doubtful. The British suffered enormous losses and at Neuve Chapelle bungled affairs to the extent of shelling their own men who had taken German trenches. In other cases they left gallant little parties lodged in enemy's trenches without supports to be annihilated.

The next development was the unexpected use of poisonous gas fumes by the Germans in attacks just north of Ypres. With this novel weapon they succeeded in taking several small villages and more than compensating for the British gains south of Ypres. The losses of the French, Canadians and British were severe, but they succeeded in stemming the German onslaught effectively a few miles back from their former position.

Begin Series of Attacks.

The German line makes a salient at Soissons, though not such a pronounced one as at St. Mihiel. The French now began a series of attacks on the upper side of this salient, to the north of Arras. Expending hundreds of thousands of shells, they time and again blasted away the barbed wire entanglements and concrete trenches, held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria's men, and then charged across the desolate ground for slight gains.

The fighting centered about the sugar refinery of Souchez and the great German work called the Labyrinth. Fighting went on in cellars and tunnels below the earth and the casualties were heavy. The French bent the German line and captured the Labyrinth, but whether the gains justified their sacrifice in human life is questionable.

In July, Crown Prince Frederick William's army attacked in the Argonne forest, west of Verdun, and succeeded in gaining several hundred yards of shattered woodland and capturing several thousand Frenchmen.

There were rumors that the Germans were re-enforcing for another great drive toward Calais or Paris, but the Teutonic campaign in the West continued to wait upon the crushing of the much weaker enemy in Poland.

Luau At Huleia

The residents of Huleia had a grand time Saturday night in honor of the completion of the macadam road into their camp. From 1 to 4 in the afternoon there were sports, and at the latter hour an elaborate luau began. For the latter Lihue Ranch contributed a bullock, an abundance of poi, other items of food and refreshments. The turn-out was a large one and everybody had a fine time.

Mr. Morrow's Relief

Henry Stamp, a young man who has for a long time been connected with the Pacific Coast Telephone Co., arrived in Lihue last week to take the place of Frank Morrow, superintendent of the Kauai Telephonic Company, while the latter is absent on the Coast. Mr. Morrow will leave this afternoon and will spend about two months looking over improvements in telephone schemes in California.

A. W. Todd, of Oahu, an experienced store manager, has arrived on Kauai to take a position temporarily with a store at Koloa.

A Thorough Investigation

The investigation being made by the government commission now here into industrial conditions reaches into an interminable list of details. Every fact in connection with plantation labor and the cost of production of sugar is being inquired into, elaborate statements on these subjects being required of every plantation. The cost of living, and even character of food consumed by laborers is being inquired into. For instance, at some of the stores the commission has required detailed statements of purchases by laborers for two years, giving the names of the articles purchased, amounts paid for same, etc.

The commissioners are certainly making a thorough job of it, and, incidentally, keeping all the book-keepers and statisticians of the island on the jump.

A New Postal Law

The new postal regulations give the following as the rate on insured packages: Under \$5.05, 3 cents; under \$25.00, 5 cents; under \$50.00, 10 cents; under \$100.00, 25 cents.



THE DUCHES D'AOSTA IN CHARGE OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS WORK.

A new photograph of the Duchess d'Aosta who is now in charge of the Italian Red Cross nurses. The Duke d'Aosta, her husband is a commanding officer in the army of King Victor Emanuel III.

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28x3	\$ 2.55	\$ 9.80
30	2.70	10.40
32	2.85	11.35
29x3 1/2	2.55	13.90
30	3.05	14.15
31	2.70	14.45
32	3.25	16.25
33	2.85	16.75
34	3.45	17.50
36	3.65	18.00
30x4	3.90	18.25
31	3.03	18.00
32	4.15	20.95
33	3.80	21.50
34	4.55	22.00
35	3.95	22.75
36	4.75	23.75
32x4 1/2	5.50	25.35
34	5.75	27.00
35	5.25	28.50
36	6.10	29.25
37	5.50	30.00
38	6.40	29.50
40	6.85	
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